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Question Time: In which time zone should Indiana be?

Should we be Eastern, Central or other?

By Rob Burgess
Tribune night editor

[**Editor's note**: To participate in future queries, keep an eye on our Twitter and Facebook accounts.]

Last week's question about feelings regarding the start of Daylight Saving Time prompted an interesting side discussion about time zones in the state. As it turns out, this has been a point of contention for Hoosiers for nearly a century now.

"Ever since the Standard Time Act positioned Indiana in the Central Time Zone in 1918, there has always been dispute or disagreement about what was considered the 'official time' within the state," according to the website Time and Date. "The Interstate Commerce Commission divided Indiana between the Eastern and Central time zones in 1961, but the new time zone line was not consistently observed. The state's counties varied in observing different time zones in the 1960s and 1970s. A few counties switched to different time zones from the late 1970s onwards."

Currently, only two parts of the state are in the Central Time Zone: To the northwest, Lake, Porter, LaPorte, Starke, Jasper and Newton counties; and to the southwest, Gibson, Vanderburgh, Posey, Warrick, Spencer and Perry counties. The rest of the state observes Eastern Standard Time. So, we wanted to know: “In which time zone (Eastern, Central, other) should Indiana be and why?”

Most people seem to favor Central, but we’re tweaking the Question Time format again to allow for the array of answers we received.

Eastern

“Eastern Standard Time. Stay right where it is. NEXT SUBJECT.” — **Chuck Woolley**

“Eastern.” — **Amy Harlow Thoman**

“Eastern.” — **Randall W. Tishner**

Central

“Central. The majority of Midwest is on this time. Just makes more sense to

me.” — **Niko Movroydis**

“Central. That way it’s not dark out when the kids are waiting and walking to bus stops. So what if it gets dark around 4:30 p.m.? On the East Coast it gets dark around 5 p.m. in the winter.” — **Tracey Lapetina**

“Central because all the TV shows/sports will come on an hour early and I don’t have to stay up until midnight to watch the whole game.” — **Neil Borowy**

Other

“When the sun is straight up in the sky on the summer solstice we call that noon and leave it at that.” — **Stephen Mullett**

“The one where we never change our clocks.” — **Heather Mathews**

“Whatever time zone in the future that stops all of these types of questions. Please.” — **Mark McMain**

Our answers

“Having lived here for a year now, I would say Central. TV programs are on

too late, daybreak is well after the time to rise and live events don't start until almost bedtime. Everyone in the Eastern time zone must be glad for DVRs, but I assume also epitomize sleep deprived." — **Jill Bond**

"I spent the first 21 years of my life not knowing any different in terms of not having to deal with the 'fall back' and 'spring forward' system that Daylight Saving Time uses. So from that standpoint, it always was whatever time it was with no tweaking the clock, and I hate the system we use currently. It may be some variation of the placebo effect, but I'm always feeling like I have jetlag in the days following the time changes. I fail to see the benefits of the system we currently use, and I've never understood the term 'daylight saving.' Regardless of what we set our clocks to, there is a set number of hours and minutes of daylight in any 24-hour period. We're not saving anything, we're just creating headaches with more things to remember. I'm sure at some point I'll be an hour late to something because we 'sprang forward' and I forgot all about it because I was busy living life, or sleeping through that imaginary hour that we gained or lost." — **Josh Sigler**

"You know, the more I think about it, the more I am liking Pedro Velazco's idea from last week's Question Time in which he proposed the one country, one time zone idea. It makes sense to me!" — **Rob Burgess**

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